THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee.
Issued in March, June, September, and December.

VOL. 80 September 2009 NO. 3

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MINUTES OF THE 2008 FALL TOS DIRECTORS MEETING

8 NOVEMBER 2008
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) Fall 2008 Meeting was held 7-9 November 2008 at the Chattanooga Nature Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was hosted by the Chattanooga Chapter of TOS. Field trips were offered to the Honors Golf Course, Brainerd Levee, Standifer Gap Marsh, and Nickajack Lake.

The research symposium featured presentations on research and management of birds in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Pileated Woodpeckers on the Cumberland Plateau, effects of exurbanization on avian diversity in Sewanee, possible competition between waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, sampling biases in Breeding Bird Surveys, results of banding studies at Greenway Farms, and an overview of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's (TWRA) Nongame Species programs.

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Connors at 4:40 p.m. Secretary Laura McCall announced that a quorum had been met. The minutes of the Spring 2008 Meeting, which had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting, were approved with corrections.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Richard remarked that the last few months had been busy for TOS. Richard attended a TWRA meeting, and the Conservation Research and Funding Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Conservation Policy Committee have also been active this summer. TOS was a sponsor of the Natural Areas Conference in Nashville. Hap Chambers had contacted Richard about commenting on the lake level drawdown at Lake Barkley, and Richard, along with other TOS representatives, has written letters addressing this issue.

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE: No reports.

SECRETARY: No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mac McWhirter was unable to attend the meeting, but his report was read by Susan Hollyday. The report indicated that TOS remains financially sound, despite the current economic crisis. TOS funds are invested conservatively, mostly in high-quality bonds and money market funds, and this strategy appears to be offering some security against the huge losses that many investors have suffered. As of 30 September 2008, the value of the fund was $209,000, down from the 31 December 2007 value of $226,000.

Membership renewal has remained stable over 2008, and it appears that, in spite of the economic conditions, TOS has fared better in new memberships and renewals than in the past several years.

One additional matter of note is that TOS has reduced its annual cost for Director's and Officer's insurance coverage from $1250 to $995 by prepaying two additional years of premiums.

CURATOR/WEB PAGE REPORT: Curator and Webmaster Chuck Nicholson reported that a few new bird-finding guides have been added to the website since the last report. Once again, he encouraged members to submit guides for their favorite birding sites, and he offered to help write them up if needed. Through the website, Chuck receives several inquiries per week about where to bird and bird identification, and these inquiries often lead to new memberships for TOS.

***MIGRANT* EDITOR'S REPORT:** *Migrant* Editor Chris Welsh reported that there are currently two issues in the queue; these will hopefully be published by the end of December. Articles are always needed, and Chris asked chapter presidents to encourage members to submit reports and research articles. Everything from reports of first sightings in a county to actual research articles would be welcome. Also, there is always a need for more reviewers; anyone interested in reviewing articles should contact Chris.

***TENNESSEE WARBLER* NEWSLETTER:** *Tennessee Warbler* editor Theresa Graham was not present, but Richard announced that the deadline for the December edition would be extended until 14 November.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Committee member Linda Kelly announced that all committee members had assignments and would report in the spring.

TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (TBRC): TBRC Secretary Dean Edwards was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a report, which was read by committee member Kevin Calhoon. The committee reviewed twenty-nine reports this year, including some that are still under consideration. None of the

reports would represent new additions to the state list; however, some of the more interesting reports under review include the potential second and third records for Townsend's Solitaire and potential first breeding records for Northern Harrier, Sedge Wren, and Pine Siskin. Full reports of TBRC actions for 2007 and 2008 will appear in *The Migrant*. The committee thanked those who submitted sighting reports and encouraged everyone to continue submitting reports of new species and species on the Review List. Report forms, instructions for reporting, and the Review List are all available on the TBRC page of the TOS website. No action is needed to appoint new members to the TBRC, as none of the current members' terms expire this year.

CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE: Committee Co-Chair Bob Hatcher gave a report on the recent activities of the committee. Foremost on the list of actions was the issuance of the TOS policy statement on the hunting of Sandhill Cranes; TOS does not currently endorse a hunting season on Sandhill Cranes, and this policy statement, along with the reasoning in taking this stance, has been published in *The Tennessee Warbler*. In addition, the Committee has taken action on a number of other issues:

- **Carbofuran Ban** – TOS has continued to support the EPA ban on Carbofuran by submitting a letter and comments to the EPA.
- **Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Reauthorization** – TOS has submitted letters to the Tennessee congressional delegation in support of reauthorizing this legislation at a higher level of funding. TOS members have also been encouraged to contact congressional representatives in support of the bills.
- **Proposed Changes to the Endangered Species Act** – TOS has opposed a rule change that would weaken the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.
- **Invasive Weed Awareness Proclamation** – TOS was listed as a co-sponsor of the Exotic Pest Plant Council's 2009 Invasive Weed Awareness State Proclamation, which stresses the need for increased awareness and action regarding invasive plants in Tennessee.
- **Support of Klamath Basin Refuge** – TOS signed onto a letter supporting the protection of Oregon's Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges from commercial agriculture.
- **Lake Elevation for Barkley and Kentucky Lakes** – TOS signed onto statements opposing proposed lake water drawdowns at Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake.

Bob indicated there are a couple of additional issues that the committee has been considering; these will be addressed in the New Business.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH FUNDING COMMITTEE: Committee Chair David Pitts reported on funding requests. The committee recommended funding $300 to Jake F. Jung for his study on behavioral differences in wild and pen-raised Northern Bobwhites, $1000 to Andrew J. Laughlin for his study on Hermit Thrush and Veery habitat associations, and $1700 to Ana Raymundo for her study on effects of coastal development on avian migration stopover in coastal areas of the Yucatan.

As the committee is authorized to disperse the approved amounts without a further vote from the directors, the committee's recommendations will be followed.

A question was raised about whether the funds can be used for studies outside of Tennessee. This was clarified: the study has to be related to Tennessee birds but does not have to be based in Tennessee. Another question was asked about whether recipients of funds will continue to present their findings at the Fall Symposium; David said recipients are very strongly encouraged to present at the meeting as well as to publish their results in *The Migrant* or elsewhere in print. It was suggested that a link to the published results be available on the TOS website.

David closed his comments by saying that the committee needs help in getting the word out about available funding and soliciting applications. Anyone who knows of someone who might be interested in applying should get the contact information to David.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No report.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: No report.

COLLATERAL MATERIALS: Donna Ward announced that she had patches and decals for sale on the front table, along with a copy of the *Annotated Checklist of Tennessee Birds*.

TN-BIRD LISTSERV: TN-BIRD Moderator Wallace Coffey reported that everything is running smoothly and that there are very few instances of problems. There are approximately 650 subscribers and growing. A round of applause was offered to Wallace for this wonderful service to Tennessee birders.

OLD BUSINESS

Paperless Copy of *Tennessee Warbler* – Mac will put information in the dues notice that goes out to each chapter; this will allow members to opt out of receiving a paper copy of the *Warbler*. The same information will also be included in the December edition of the *Warbler*. Some confusion was expressed about how members will actually receive their copy; it was explained that members who opt out of the paper copy will receive an email notification with a link to download the *Warbler* to their computer.

NEW BUSINESS

Cherokee Wilderness Areas – Jeff Hunter of the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (and also a member of the Chattanooga Chapter of TOS) presented the Directors with a campaign to expand designated Wilderness Areas of the Cherokee National Forest. These Wilderness Areas would be protected from road-building and motorized equipment of any kind and would protect wildlife habitat and watersheds. These areas would also be used for recreation, including hiking, wildlife watching, rock climbing, hunting, and fishing. To get the necessary congressional support for the designations, it will have to be shown that there is support for the plan from a diverse assemblage of community groups. The Southern Appalachian

Forest Coalition would like TOS to endorse the plan. Due to time constraints, it was decided that discussion of a resolution of support would be tabled until May 2009, and the issue will be reviewed by the Conservation Policy Committee in the meantime.

Lights Out – Bob Hatcher, standing in for State Ornithologist Scott Somershoe, introduced the Lights Out Program in Nashville, which aims to reduce unnecessary night lighting in the city to lower the threat of nighttime collisions of migratory birds into buildings, conserve resources, save money, reduce greenhouse gas emission, and ultimately increase visibility of the night sky. The focus would be on reducing external and internal lighting from 2300 until sunrise during the spring and fall migration seasons. Scott would like TOS to join the list of prominent conservation organizations in endorsing this initiative. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the program, and the motion passed.

Resolution Thanking Gary Myers – The motion was made, seconded, and carried, that a resolution should be passed honoring Gary Myers, who is retiring as TWRA Executive Director, for his many years of service and leadership in conservation. Discussion followed, and text that was ultimately adopted is below:

WHEREAS, Gary Myers, Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, plans to retire on 1 March 2009, after serving over 31 years in this position;

WHEREAS, he has the longest tenure of any state fish and wildlife director;

WHEREAS, he has been a national leader in developing and implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) since its inception in 1986;

WHEREAS, he was, until recently, Chairman of the Bird Conservation Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and today serves as vice-chairman;

WHEREAS, he has been very active with initiating Partners in Flight (PIF) and other national and international bird conservation projects for many years;

WHEREAS, he was, until recently, serving on the U.S. Tri-national Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and is today a PIF representative to NABCI;

WHEREAS, he has promoted the integration of nongame and game management through aspects of the abovementioned programs, such as jointly managing for shorebird and waterfowl habitat;

WHEREAS, he has supported high quality bird management in Tennessee which, among other accomplishments, has resulted in the restoration of Bald Eagles, Ospreys, and Peregrine Falcons;

WHEREAS, he has lent his support to the non-profit American Eagle Foundation and his personal blessings helped AEF sustain at least three early challenges to its survival;

WHEREAS, TWRA has utilized state and federal funds for acquisition of many thousands acres of combined nongame and game habitat in Tennessee; and

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Ornithological Society commends Gary T. Myers for his many outstanding

contributions to bird life in Tennessee, the United States, and the Americas.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Reestablishment of Bylaws Committee – Richard would like to reestablish the Constitution Bylaws Committee to look at the details of the constitution and the various committees. Richard will be making appointments to this committee and will try to hold a committee meeting at the Spring Meeting in Nashville.

Tennessee Conservation Voters – Virginia Reynolds passed out some information about the Tennessee Conservation Voters and pointed out that, while many conservation organizations are members of the group, TOS is not (although we have been in the past). Virginia would like TOS to consider membership in this policy advocacy and lobbying organization; this would cost $300. She suggested we take this up at the Spring Meeting.

Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC)– In the same vein as Virginia's remarks, Chuck Nicholson commented that we used to be a member of TEC, but we haven't been in several years. Ken Dubke indicated that at one time, there was some opposition in the membership to becoming too involved in conservation issues, as it was viewed that this strayed from TOS's focus on ornithology. Things may have changed now, and this is something that should be discussed at the Spring Meeting. In the past several years, TOS has been more heavily involved in conservation issues at the national level than at the state level, but this may be something that needs to be reconsidered.

Spring TOS Meeting – Nashville Chapter President Amy Potter announced that the Nashville Chapter would be hosting the Spring 2009 TOS Meeting in Nashville, 1-3 May 2009. Details will be published in the upcoming edition of *The Tennessee Warbler*.

Winter Meeting – The location of the Winter Meeting will be discussed over dinner after the meeting.

Sandhill Cranes – Richard asserted that, although TOS has made a resolution stating our position on the hunting of Sandhill Cranes, it is important that we maintain a handle on the situation. The Conservation Policy Committee has handled most of this so far, but it may need to be spread a little broader. Richard suggested the formation of a working group who will stay abreast of the issues and changes that arise as TWRA moves forward on this issue. David Aborn and Scott Somershoe have already expressed interest in being a part of such a group. Richard also suggested a survey or comment form that could be posted on the TOS website to solicit comments from members, but no interest was expressed in this proposition. The bottom line is that we need to know what the issues are and what our position is.

A question arose from Linda Kelly who said we were told in the spring that it would take three to four years for a plan to be developed; why is the plan moving so much faster now? David Aborn, as a member of the Eastern Sandhill Crane

Subcommittee of the Mississippi Flyway Council, clarified the time frame. The first calls for Sandhill Crane hunting in the Mississippi Flyway (the region in which Tennessee is located) came about three years ago, and the Flyway Council met then and determined that there was not enough information about the population status to formalize a plan at that time. The issue was tabled pending collection of population data from each of the states involved until earlier this year, when the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that a game management plan must be created for Sandhill Cranes, even if individual states, as is the case in Tennessee, have previously treated the species as a non-game species. This is because the USFWS considers the Sandhill Crane to be a game species, regardless of how individual states have treated them. Therefore, a plan will likely be in place by Spring 2009, at which time it will be up to each state to determine whether to implement a hunting season.

Vacancies on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission – Richard made the suggestion that, with the retirement of Gary Myers and the impending vacancy of seats on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission, TOS needs to be compiling a list of names and communicating to the governor whom we would like to see appointed to those seats so that our views are represented in wildlife management policy.

More discussion on the Sandhill Crane hunting issue followed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Jennings McCall, Secretary

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ABSTRACTS FROM THE 2008 TOS FALL SYMPOSIUM

Protecting the birds of the Smokies: avian research and management in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

PAUL E. SUPER, Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, P.O. Box 357, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

The Great Smoky Mountains have been a site of bird research since long before they were protected as a National Park. Along with bears, salamanders, and spring wildflowers, many visitors come to the park specifically to look for birds. The Smokies have been designated a Significant Bird Area, and three sites on the North Carolina side are listed in the North Carolina Birding Trail. Recent avian research in the park has addressed several issues, including studies and management of rare and extirpated species, response of species to air pollution, and response to loss of the Canadian hemlock. The All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, launched in 1997, has also provided significant information about bird populations in the park and is allowing us to map predicted distributions park-wide. Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been proud to participate in the National Park Service's Park Flight program, hosting interns from Costa Rica and Mexico and participating in international conservation efforts. We are always interested in working with research partners to better understand our avian resources and how best to protect them.

A study of forest structure, food availability and Pileated Woodpecker abundance on the Southern Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee

MARIE E. WILSON, JORDAN M. CASEY and DAVID G. HASKELL
Department of Biology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN 37383-1000

Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) are the largest woodpeckers found in the United States, and because of this great size they require very large trees for roosting, nesting, and feeding. Many of these trees must also be dead or dying for ease of excavation and presence of ants and grubs, the main food source for these birds. Because of these specific habitat requirements, Pileated Woodpeckers have been used as an indicator species for mature forests, even though large trees and downed wood do occur in both forested and residential areas. We tested the hypothesis that the presence of Pileated Woodpeckers is correlated with forest structure, food availability, and presence of human housing. We conducted the study in

Sewanee, Tennessee establishing 30 sample points evenly divided between exurban and forested areas. At each point we assessed woodpecker presence through visual and vocal surveys; habitat structure through measures of downed wood, standing trees and understory density; and food availability through presence of ants and grubs in soil cores and pitfall traps. We found no difference between the presence of Pileated Woodpeckers, amount of dead wood, and ant and grub abundance between exurban and forested areas, but trees were larger in exurban areas. Therefore it appears that Pileated Woodpecker habitat may be similar in exurban and forested areas, suggesting that exurban areas may provide habitat for mature forest species.

The effects of exurbanization on avifauna diversity in Sewanee, Tennessee

Jordan M. Casey, Marie E. Wilson and David G. Haskell
Department of Biology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN 37383-1000

The southern Cumberland Plateau is a biodiversity hotspot in North America. However, much of this land is privately owned and not under any zoning or growth restrictions. The potential for unrestricted exurban growth is high, as are the potential negative impacts on ecosystem services provided by these natural areas. By examining the diversity of avifauna in forested and exurban areas, we estimated the correlation between biodiversity and exurbanization in Sewanee, Tennessee. We conducted five-min point counts at fifteen forested and fifteen exurban sites during the summer of 2008. Exurban areas had a significantly higher species richness than forested sites ($P = 0.0015$). There was also a greater evenness of species in exurban sites. Our data strongly suggests that bird diversity is higher in exurban areas. Exurbanization results in a more diverse array of habitats, which includes buildings, open spaces, an entire gradient of deforestation, and older forest structure. This may account for the greater richness and evenness of avifauna in exurban areas. Future studies should account for conservation priority species.

Breeding Bird Survey sampling biases in Tennessee

David G. Haskell and J. Berton C. Harris
Department of Biology, University of the South, Sewanee, TN 37383-1000

Roadside surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) are widely used to assess the relative abundance of bird populations. We quantified roadside land cover sampling bias in Tennessee, USA, by comparing land cover proportions near roads to proportions of the surrounding region. We found that roadside surveys gave a biased estimate of patterns across the region because some land cover

types were over- or under-represented near roads. These biases changed over time introducing varying levels of distortion into the data. We constructed simulated bird population trends for five bird species of management interest based on these measured roadside sampling biases and on field data on bird abundance. These simulations indicated that roadside surveys may give overly negative assessments of the population trends of early-successional birds and of synanthropic birds, but not of late-successional birds. We recommend further study of these biases and the development of methods to correct for the biases.

Possible competition between waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Tennessee

DAVID A. ABORN, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, David-Aborn@utc.edu

As a result of crop planting for waterfowl, numbers of eastern Greater Sandhill Cranes staging and overwintering at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in eastern Tennessee have sharply increased over the last 30-40 years. Peak numbers of wintering cranes have reached 14,000, and this large increase in crane numbers raises the possibility that they may be out-competing waterfowl for food and space. I examined broad scale changes in waterfowl numbers using Christmas Bird Count data, as well as small-scale changes using observations of waterfowl numbers and locations in relation to cranes on individual days. Preliminary results indicate that Canada Goose populations and behavior do seem to be affected by cranes, and while numbers of other waterfowl species have not shown changes, they tend to remain farther from shore, and hence in deeper water, when there are more cranes around. This means that waterfowl at Hiwassee may not be able to deposit as much fat for inclement winter weather, spring migration, or breeding. From the perspective of managing the cranes, competition with waterfowl means that wildlife managers are under increased pressure to provide enough food for both cranes and waterfowl, and may increase justification for crane hunting.

Five years of banding at Greenway Farms: a potpourri of results

DAVID A. ABORN, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, David-Aborn@utc.edu

In the fall of 2003 I began banding birds at Greenway Farms in Hamilton County, Tennessee to assess the suitability of urban greenspaces for birds during migration. I present a variety of results from those efforts to date. In approximately 9,000 net

hours, I have banded over 1,400 individuals of 79 species. Overall, migrants lose mass while at Greenway Farms, but results do vary by species. Magnolia Warblers and Common Yellowthroats gain mass, while Indigo Buntings and Ovenbirds lose mass. There is also a tendency for migrants caught in the woods to be slightly heavier (adjusting for body size) than birds caught in the overgrown field. Again, this varies by species, with Magnolia Warblers showing the greatest difference. Lastly, several species have shown declines in captures as succession in the field area has progressed. This field was originally intended to be a prairie restoration area, and if early-successional bird species are to persist, then management actions need to be taken.

An overview of TWRA's non-game programs with emphasis on birds

Richard Kirk
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, TN

No abstract submitted.

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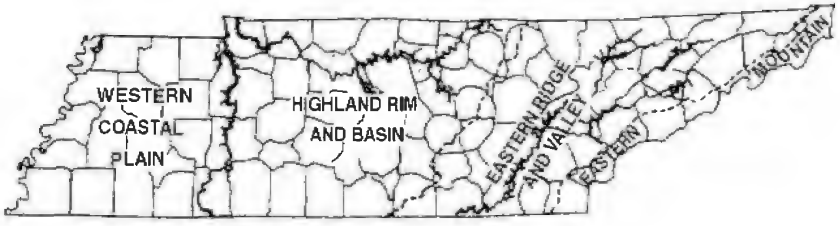
THE SPRING SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



1 MARCH - 31 MAY 2009

Spring began slightly warmer than usual this year, followed by somewhat cooler than normal temperatures for the bulk of the season. Rainfall was plentiful for the period as a whole, except in the mountains. May was particularly rainy for most of the state. The frequent rain impacted migration, at least in parts of East Tennessee.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and Western Kingbirds returned to Shelby County, where a Swainson's Hawk was also observed and photographed. A Brown Pelican appeared on two Nashville area lakes. Mississippi Kites were spotted near Nashville and in Knoxville, well east of their usual haunts. A White-winged Dove in East Tennessee was most unexpected, while two in Memphis were less surprising though still quite rare. These two reports are about the sixth and seventh in the state, all found in the last decade or so. This species is increasing as a vagrant all across the continent. Two calling Northern Saw-whet Owls in Middle Tennessee were late migrants. Rare passerines included a Bell's Vireo at Fort Campbell plus a Clay-colored Sparrow and Painted Bunting in Knox County.

Alder Flycatchers and Black-billed Cuckoos were found in all four regions. Olive-sided Flycatchers, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and Connecticut Warblers appeared in all but the Mountain region. Following the heavy irruption from last fall and winter, some Pine Siskins lingered into May in several areas. Siskins nested for the second time on the mid-slope of Roan Mountain, although this was not necessarily connected to the irruptive flight. A small flock of Evening Grosbeaks in West Tennessee was quite surprising given the lack of reports during the preceeding fall and winter, as well as the overall decline of this species in recent years.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr. - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
et al. - and others
fide - reported by
im - immature
Is. - Island
L. - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — March was slightly warmer than normal throughout, while both April and May were cooler than normal. Rainfall was average in March, but higher than average in both April and May. On balance it was cooler and wetter than usual. Noteworthy sightings were numerous this season, highlighted by Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Swainson's Hawk, and White-winged Dove.

Duck - Falcon: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: 3 May thru season (3-7) Ensley (JRW); 22 May (2) Coro L., Shelby Co (Robert Gooch). **Ross's Goose**: 29 Mar (1) Ensley (CHB, VBR), lrs. **Cackling Goose**: 22 Mar (2) Ensley (CHB, VBR), lrs. **Northern Shoveler**: thru May (pair + 1 male) Ensley (JRW). **Lesser Scaup**: 15 Mar (5,000) TVA Lake, Shelby Co (CHB, VBR), max. **White-winged Scoter**: 31 Mar (3) Pickwick L., Hardin Co (Damien Simbeck). **Anhinga**: 21 Mar (1) Shelby Co (JRW), ers; 22 Apr (6 ad, 3 nests) Eagle L., Shelby Co (SGS); 9 May (24 in a flock flying over) Chickasaw NWR, Lauderdale Co (MCT). **American Bittern**: 20 Apr (1) Chester Co (SGS). **Great Blue Heron**: 22 Apr (274 nests) Shelby Forest (SGS), max. **Great Egret**: 22 Apr (355 nests) Shelby Forest (SGS). **Little Blue Heron**: 10 Apr (2 ad) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Cattle Egret**: 12 Apr (2) Haywood Co (MAG), ers. **Green Heron**: 4 Apr (1) Jackson (AJT), ers. **Osprey**: 7 Mar (2) Reelfoot L. (Nancy Moore), ers. **Mississippi Kite**: 25 Apr (2) Ensley (JRW), ers; 22 May (1) Henderson Co (Mac & Susan McWhirter). **Bald Eagle**: 22 Mar (1 on nest) SW Shelby Co (CHB, VBR); 10 May (2 ad) Fayette Co (Don Hailey). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 30 Mar (1) Millington, Shelby Co (Van Harris), ers. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: 25 Apr (1 im) Ensley (JRW, photo). **Merlin**: 7 May (1) Obion Co (MAG), lrs. **Peregrine Falcon**: 28 Apr (1) Tipton Co (Bob Ford).

Plover - Tern: **American Golden-Plover**: 16 Mar (5) Shelby Farms (JRW), ers; 2 Apr (200+) Obion Co (MAG), max. **Semipalmated Plover**: 12 Apr / 25 May (2+) Ensley (JRW), ers / lrs. **Black-necked Stilt**: 12 Apr (21) Ensley (JRW), ers; 18 May (2 pairs) Lake Co (MCT). **Willet**: 3 May (7) Ensley (JRW). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 7 Mar (4) Reelfoot L. (Nancy Moore), ers. **Upland Sandpiper**: 3-4 Apr (2 / 5) Shelby Farms (Gail King / JRW); 12 Apr - 2 May (2-6) Ensley (JRW); 16 Apr (4) Haywood Co (JRW). **Hudsonian Godwit**: 17 May (1) Ensley (JRW). **Western Sandpiper**: 25 Apr / 15 May (1) Ensley (JRW), ers / lrs. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 24 Apr (1) Dyer Co (MCT), ers; 15 May (262) Ensley (JRW), max. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 9-22 May (1-12) Ensley (JRW); 18 May (3) Dyer Co (MCT). **Baird's Sandpiper**: 2 Apr (1) Obion Co (MAG); 12 Apr (1) Ensley (JRW). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 15 Mar / 25 May (1) Ensley (JRW), ers / lrs. **Dunlin**: 12 Apr / 15 May (2 / 52) Ensley (JRW), ers / max; 1 May (5) Gibson Co (MCT); 18 May (35) Dyer Co (MCT). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 12 Apr (6) Ensley (JRW), ers. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 12 Apr (1) Ensley (JRW), ers; 11 May (23) Gibson Co (MCT). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 5 Apr - 3 May (3-11) Ensley (JRW); 28 Apr (97) Lake Co (MCT). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 23 Apr / 3 May (1 / 2) Ensley (JRW). **Laughing Gull**: 18 May (1) Reelfoot L. (MCT). **Black Tern**: 1 May (1) Gibson Co (MCT). **Common Tern**: 6 May (1) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (WMP); 10 May (10) Shelby Farms (JRW), max. **Forster's Tern**: 6 May (1) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (WMP); 10 May (26) Shelby Farms (JRW), max.

Dove - Wren: **WHITE-WINGED DOVE**: 22 May (2) President's Is., Shelby Co (JRW). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 5 May (1) Shelby Co (Jim & Sue Ferguson); 17 May (1) Carroll Co (MCT). **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 13 May (1) near Dyer / Lake Co. line (MAG); 17 May (2) Henry Co (MCT). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 17 May (1) Carroll Co (MCT). **Alder Flycatcher**: 7 May (1) Fayette Co (AJT); 18 May (2) Lake Co (MCT). **Great Crested Flycatcher**: 17 Apr (2) Dyer Co (MAG), ers. **Western Kingbird**: 2 May thru season (10+) Shelby Co (JRW). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 22 Apr (1) Lauderdale Co (SGS); 15 May (pair + 1 male) Coffee Landing, Hardin Co (AJT); 15 May thru season (pair) Shelby Co (JRW). **Western Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 15 May (2 hybrid females) Shelby Co (JRW), one for its 6th year. **Loggerhead Shrike**: late winter tally - Shelby Co - 3, Tipton Co - 2, Lauderdale Co - 7, Dyer Co - 9, Lake Co - 3 (JRW); 11 May (pair with 4 yg) Ensley (CHB, VBR). **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 3 Apr (1) Shelby Farms (AJT), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 17 Apr (1) Dyer Co (MAG), ers. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 10 Apr (1) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Fish Crow**: 17 Mar (100+) Obion Co (MAG), near landfill; 4 Apr (6) Henry Co (MCT); 17 Apr (10) Dyer Co (MAG). **Sedge Wren**: 18 May (1) Black Bayou, Lake Co (MCT).

Warbler - Grosbeak: **Northern Parula**: 3 Apr (1) Shelby Farms (AJT), ers. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 3 Apr (1) Shelby Farms (AJT), ers. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 3 Apr (1) Shelby Farms (AJT), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 4 Apr (1) Collierville, Shelby Co (Jay Walko), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 20 Apr (2) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 17 Mar (1) Obion Co (MAG), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 4 May (1) Shelby Forest (MCT); 9 May (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Summer Tanager**: 15 Apr (1) Decatur Co (AJT), ers. **Lark Sparrow**: 25 Apr (2) Henry Co (MCT); 26 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MCT). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 22 Mar (1) Ensley (CHB, VBR), ers; 28 Apr (15+) Dyer Co (MCT), max. **Song Sparrow**: 17 May (1, nest building) Ensley (JRW). **Painted Bunting**: 9 May (2) Ensley (JRW). **Evening Grosbeak**: 24 Mar (10) Big Cypress Tree SP, Weakley Co (Dawn Wilkins).

Locations: Ensley - in Shelby Co; Reelfoot L. - Lake Co. portion; Shelby Farms / Shelby Forest - in Shelby Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — As spring approached, the region surrounding Nashville had a warmer than average March. However, the following months of April and May had mean temperatures close to normal. Snow fell on the first day of March, but the rest of the month was water starved at 40% below average. Fortunately, the area had a normal amount of rainfall in April and the yearly deficit was more than made up for in May. During the first half of that month it seemed as if nearly every day was overcast and rainy and, indeed, the vast majority of the more than eight inches of precipitation occurred then.

Duck - Tern: **Greater Scaup**: 13 Apr (3) Shelby Bottoms (PDC), ties Nashville area

late date. **BROWN PELICAN**: 13 Apr / 10 May (1) Percy Priest L. / Old Hickory L. (SGS, photo / Ken Oeser), reported by fisherman on 9 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 16 Apr (10 pairs, nest building) Pear Is., Percy Priest L. (SGS). **American Bittern**: 22 Apr (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Least Bittern**: 26 May (1) Williamsport L., Maury Co (WMP). **Snowy Egret**: 11 Apr (1) Montgomery Co (Jeff Grimes, photo); 9 May (3) Gallatin Steam Plant (CAS). **Little Blue Heron**: 15 Apr (1 ad) Montgomery Co (Jeff Grimes, photo); 9 May (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (CAS). **Tricolored Heron**: 25 Apr (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK, photo). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 16 Mar (2) Murfreesboro (TJW); 26 Mar / 3 Apr (2 / 5) west Nashville (Michael Lee Bierly), nested at this site last year; 8 Apr (1) Dyson's Ditch, Cheatham Co (Susan Hollyday). ***Plegadis* sp.**: 9 May (1) near Palmyra, Montgomery Co (Stanley York, Jr), thought to be Glossy Ibis. **Mississippi Kite**: 9 May (2) Cheatham Co (Joe Stone, Jerry Drewry). **Northern Harrier**: 9 May (1) Bell's Bend (CAS), lrs. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 4 Apr (1) White Co (DAD), ers. **Merlin**: 5 / 20 Apr (1) Montgomery Co (Stanley York, Jr.). **Virginia Rail**: 9 Apr (1) Murfreesboro (TJW). **Sora**: 9 May (1 each) Shelby Bottoms / Cheatham Co (Michael Smith / Joe Stone, Jerry Drewry). **Solitary Sandpiper**: 2 Apr (1) Robertson Co (TL), ers. **Willet**: 9 May (20) Old Hickory L. (CAS). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 4 May (37) White Co (DAD), max. **Laughing Gull**: 18-19 Apr (1) Old Hickory L. (TJW, Bob Ingle); 9 May (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (CAS). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 10 May (1) Old Hickory L. (Ken Oeser), lrs. **Caspian Tern**: 4 Apr (1) Cross Cr. NWR, Stewart Co (Steve Routledge), ers. **Common Tern**: 9 May (3) Percy Priest L. (Bob Ingle, Ed Schneider). **Forster's Tern**: 15 Apr (5) Percy Priest L. (DK), ers.

Cuckoo - Waxwing: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 10 May (1) Shelby Park (PDC). **Barn Owl**: early Apr (1) Williamson Co (Jean Buchanan). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 2 Mar (2, calling) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Chimney Swift**: 1 Apr (4) Radnor L. (JKS, TL), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 26 Mar (1) Nashville (LVK), ers. **Rufous Hummingbird**: thru 23 Mar (1 male) Putnam Co (Stan Hood, photo), lrs. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 6 / 9 May (2) Radnor L. (DK / CAS). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 6 / 16 May (1) Radnor L. (DK / CAS); 17 May (1) Shelby Park (PDC). **Alder Flycatcher**: 9 May (1 singing) Shelby Park (PDC); 20 May (3 singing) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Willow Flycatcher**: 2 May (2) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, NTOS); 7 May (1) Williamson Co (JKS); 20 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Eastern Kingbird**: 5 Apr (1) Sumner Co (Carrie Heilmen), ers. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 18 Apr (2) I-24 at TN 840, Rutherford Co (TJW, Bob Ingle); 1-29 May (1-2) Wilson - Overall Rd., Rutherford Co (TJW / DK); 18 May (pair + 1 male) Lytle Cr. Rd., Rutherford Co (TJW). **White-eyed Vireo**: 11 Apr (1) Bell's Bend (CAS), ers. **BELL'S VIREO**: 29 May (2) Fort Campbell (DMo) **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 8 Apr (1) Radnor L. (KB), ers. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 17 Mar (1) White Co (DAD), ers. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 4 Apr (1) White Co (DAD), ers. **Purple Martin**: 15 Mar (2) Radnor L. (JKS), ers. **Tree Swallow**: 6 Mar (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, TL, JKS), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 23 Mar (1) White Co (DAD), ers. **Bewick's Wren**: 4 Apr (1) Rutherford Co (TJW). **Sedge Wren**: 18-19 Apr (1 / 2) Bell's Bend (DK / TL); 22 Apr (2) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 26 Mar (1) Radnor L. (Scott Block), ers. **Veery**: 20 Apr (1) Radnor L. (KB), ers. **Swainson's Thrush**: 22

Apr (3) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Wood Thrush**: 18 Apr (1) Davidson Co (CAS), ers. **Cedar Waxwing**: 11 Apr (600+) Bell's Bend (CAS), max.

Warblers: **Blue-winged Warbler**: 10 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 24 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Tennessee Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Hardin Co (SGS), ers. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 29 Mar (1) Davidson Co (JKS, NTOS); 12 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC). **Nashville Warbler**: 22 Apr (1) Radnor L. (FCF), ers. **Northern Parula**: 2 Apr (1) Robertson Co (TL), ers. **Yellow Warbler**: 18 Apr (1) Davidson Co (CAS), ers. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 24 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Magnolia Warbler**: 24 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 27 Apr (1) Robertson Co (TL), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 29 Apr / 2-3 May / 9 May (1 male) Radnor L. (LVK / SGS, m.ob. / CAS), possibly all of same bird. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 1 Apr (1) Radnor L. (JKS, TL), ers. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 23 Mar (1) White Co (DAD), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 9 Apr (1) Long Hunter SP, Davidson Co (Jason Allen), ers; 28 May (40+) Bark Camp Barrens WMA (SGS), max. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: 26 Apr (1) Beaman Park, Davidson Co (TL), ers. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Hardin Co (SGS), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 20 Apr (1 each) Radnor L. / Hickman Co. (KB / SGS), ers. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 1 Apr (2) Radnor L. (JKS, TL), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 5 Apr (1) Cheatham L., Dickson Co (SGS), ers. **Ovenbird**: 12 Apr (1) Sumner Co (Ed Schneider), ers. **Northern Waterthrush**: 1 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 17 Mar (1) Williamson Co (Richard Connors), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 10 / 17 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC); 10 May (1) Robertson Co (TL); 10 May (1) west Nashville (Richard Connors, Sarah Scott); 15-18 May (1) Radnor L. (FCF, CAS); 16 / 19 May (2 / 1) Bell's Bend (JKS, NTOS). **Mourning Warbler**: 7-13 May (1-2) Radnor L. (JKS, FCF, NTOS); 17 / 20 May (2 / 1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC). **Common Yellowthroat**: 1 Apr (1) Nashville (LVK), ers. **Hooded Warbler**: 18 Apr (1) Shelby Park (TL), ers. **Wilson's Warbler**: 7 May (1 each) Radnor L. / Nashville (JKS, FCF / CAS), ers; 18 May (1) Radnor L. (FCF), lrs. **Canada Warbler**: 24 Apr (1) Lewis Co (WMP), ers; 9 May (9) Radnor L. (CAS), max. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: 22 Apr (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC), ers; 28 May (70+) Bark Camp Barrens WMA (SGS), max.

Tanager - Siskin: **Summer Tanager**: 18 Apr (1) Davidson Co (Chris O'Bryan et al.), ers. **Scarlet Tanager**: 11 Apr (1) Lewis Co (AJT), ers. **Bachman's Sparrow**: 17 Apr (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co. portion (DMo). **Vesper Sparrow**: 22 Mar (1) Bell's Bend (TL), ers; 11 May (1) Maury Co (Tommy Edwards), lrs. **Lark Sparrow**: 15 May (1) near Walker Branch State Natural Area, Hardin Co (AJT). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 19 Apr (1) Bell's Bend (TL), ers. **Henslow's Sparrow**: 11 Apr thru season (7) Bell's Bend (CAS, m.ob.); 22 Apr (17) Fort Campbell (DMo); 23 May (1) Overton Co (Steve Stedman); 28 May (4) Bark Camp Barrens WMA (SGS). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 24 Apr / 16 May (1) Bell's Bend (JKS, NTOS), ers / lrs. **Swamp Sparrow**: 16 May (1) Bell's Bend (JKS, NTOS), lrs. **Dickcissel**: 24 Apr (1) Bell's Bend (JKS, NTOS), ers; 4 May (2) White Co (DAD); 12 May (4+) Robertson Co (TL). **Bobolink**: 4 May (75) White Co (DAD), max. **Orchard Oriole**: 10 Apr (1) Williamson Co (Jean Buchanan), ers.

Baltimore Oriole: 24 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Purple Finch**: 5 May (1 male) Nashville (LVK), lrs. **Pine Siskin**: 13 May (1) Nashville (LVK), lrs.

Locations: Bark Camp Barrens WMA - in Coffee Co; Bell's Bend - in Davidson Co; Fort Campbell - in Montgomery Co (unless stated otherwise); Gallatin Steam Plant - in Sumner Co; Old Hickory L. - in Davidson Co; Percy Priest L. - in Rutherford Co; Radnor L. - in Davidson Co; Shelby Park / Bottoms - in Davidson Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE & VALLEY REGION — March was slightly warmer than average, April was slightly cooler than average, and May had near-normal temperatures. A light frost in the Tri-cities area on 19 May was late, providing a brief "blackberry winter". Rainfall was deficient in March, near average in April, but well above average in May. Following several dry years, surplus precipitation in East Tennessee during the winter and spring allowed the upper tributary reservoirs (east of Knoxville) to reach full pool by early to mid May, some for the first time in three years (e.g., Douglas Lake and South Holston Lake). In the Chattanooga area, both Standifer Gap Marsh and Brainerd Levee experienced low water levels.

The flights of waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds were generally unremarkable. The songbird migration seemed to be near the recent norm in Chattanooga and Knoxville, but was rather poor in the Tri-cities area, particularly for purely transient species. Dickcissels were reported from more areas than usual. Wintering Pine Siskins lingered into May in many locales. Rarity highlights included a White-winged Dove, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Painted Bunting. Also notable were Red-necked Grebe, Northern Goshawk, Black-necked Stilt, and two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (away from known breeding sites in the southern part of the region).

Goose - Cormorant: **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 7 Mar (1) Brainerd Levee (CDB, DRJ); 4 Apr / 7 May (1) Upper Douglas L. (MBS), late. **Snow Goose**: 8 Mar (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ), lrs. **Ross's Goose**: 2 Mar (1) Johnson City (Jerry Nagel). **Cackling Goose**: 14-15 Mar (1) Chester Frost Park, Hamilton Co (DRJ et al.), first SE Tenn record. **Tundra Swan**: 22-28 Mar (1) Holston R., Hawkins Co (Trudy & Harold Smith, JWC). **Northern Pintail**: 5 Mar (45) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), large number in upper part of region. **Green-winged Teal**: 5 Mar (130) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), max; 10 May (2) Bible Refuge (DHM), lrs. **Greater Scaup**: 4 May (1 female) Austin Springs (RLK), new late date in NE Tenn. **Surf Scoter**: 7 Mar (1) Tenn. R., Hamilton Co (DRJ). **Hooded Merganser**: 10 May (1) Bible Refuge (DHM), lrs. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 15 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 30 May (1) Kyker Bottoms (Bob Howdeshell); lrs. **Common Loon**: 26 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK), lrs. **Red-throated Loon**: 9 Mar (1) Chickamauga L., Hamilton Co (TLR), continuation from Jan at this site. **Red-necked Grebe**: 4 Mar (1) Boone L., Sullivan & Washington Cos.

(GDE, RLK). **American White Pelican**: 19 Apr (29) L. Tansi, Cumberland Co (EKL), large number for East Tenn. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 4 Apr (21 nests, 280+ birds) Lyon's Is., Knox Co (CJW).

Bittern - Crane: **American Bittern**: 22 Mar - 5 Apr (1) White's Mill Refuge, Blount Co (Tom Howe, m.ob.); 4 / 18 Apr (2) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM); 12 Apr (2) Lick Cr. Bottoms WMA, Greene Co (DHM); 1 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 3 May (1) Frozen Head SP, Morgan Co (Michael Hodge, photo). **Least Bittern**: 3 May thru season (1-2) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC, DRJ). **Snowy Egret**: 2 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DRJ); 5 May (1) Kingsport (RAP); 14 May (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Little Blue Heron**: 2 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DRJ); 5 / 8 May (1 im) Austin Springs (Roy Knispel, Gil Derouen, Reese Jamerson / RLK). **Cattle Egret**: 18 Apr (4) Bradley Co (Zack Barrow); 20 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ, CDB); 12 May (1) Jefferson Co (DHM). **Green Heron**: 4 Apr (1) Knox Co (CJW), ers. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 4 Apr (3 nests) Lyon's Is., Knox Co (CJW). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 26 Mar thru season (7 nests at 3 sites) Kingsport (RAP, RLK, Bill Grigsby, m.ob.); 1 Apr / 12 May (1) Hamilton Co (KAC); 21 Apr (1) Knox Co (CJW); 9 May (2) Sweetwater, Monroe Co (CJW). **Osprey**: 5 Mar (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), ers. **Mississippi Kite**: 26 Apr (1) Sharp's Ridge, Knox Co (Charles Nicholson et al.). **Bald Eagle**: 14 Mar (1 im) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM); 25 Apr (1 ad) Fall Branch, Washington Co (Lia Pritchard); 5 May (1 im) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); 27 May (1 ad) Nolichucky R., Washington Co (RLK). **Cooper's Hawk**: 25 Apr (active nest in suburban yard) Johnson City (fide RLK). **Northern Goshawk**: 6 Apr (1 ad) Knoxville (CJW). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 4 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (KAC et al.), ers. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 7 Mar (1) Greene Co (DHM); 5 Apr thru season (active nest, 1 large yg on 14 May) Reedy Cr., Kingsport (Bill Grigsby, RLK, m.ob.), third breeding record in NE Tenn, about 2 miles from nest site on this stream used in 2004-2005. **Red-tailed Hawk**: 17 Mar (1 albino, on nest) Sullivan Co (Mike Poe). **Rough-legged Hawk**: 3 Mar (1) Cumberland Co (EKL). **Golden Eagle**: 13 Apr (1 im) Standifer Gap Marsh (DRJ, RJH, DCC). **Merlin**: 5 May (1) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); 31 May (1) Royal Blue WMA, Campbell Co (John Moyle et al.), quite late. **Peregrine Falcon**: 7 Apr (1) Tenn. R., Hamilton Co (Amanda Pippin), only report in Chattanooga area, with no activity around the nest site below Chickamauga Dam (fide KAC); 14 May (1) Jefferson Co (DHM); 18 May (1 ad) Limestone (RLK); 30 May (2) Obed Wild & Scenic R., Morgan Co (John Moyle et al.). **Virginia Rail**: present thru season at Standifer Gap Marsh, but no evidence of nesting (fide KAC); 30 May (1) Kyker Bottoms (Bob Howdeshell). **Sora**: 12 Apr (1) Kyker Bottoms (Mark Armstrong); 18 / 25 Apr (1-2) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM); 25 Apr / 10 May (2) Bible Refuge (DHM); 25 Apr / 8 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 3 / 9 May (2 / 1) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC et al.). **Sandhill Crane**: 4 / 7 May (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), quite late.

Stilt - Swift: **Black-necked Stilt**: 25 Apr (1) Brainerd Levee (Libby Wolfe et al.), first SE Tenn record & fifth for East Tenn. **Spotted Sandpiper**: wintering bird thru 29 Mar at Kingsport (RLK, m.ob.); 29 May (2) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **Solitary**

Sandpiper: 26 Mar / 24 May (1) Washington Co (GOW / RLK), ers / lrs. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 30 May (1) Kyker Bottoms (Bob Howdeshell), lrs. **Upland Sandpiper**: 22 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (Charles Dean). **Least Sandpiper**: 7 Mar (3) Upper Douglas L. (MBS), ers. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 9 May (3) Standifer Gap Marsh (DCC, KAC); 23-25 May (3) Washington Co (RLK, m.ob.). **Dunlin**: 5 Mar (1) Brainerd Levee (DCC); 7 Mar (18) Upper Douglas L. (MBS), possibly wintering; 4 Apr - 7 May (1) Washington Co (RLK, m.ob.), long-staying individual. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 4 / 7 May (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS). **Herring Gull**: 8 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK), lrs. **Caspian Tern**: 29 Mar (1) Nickajack L., Marion Co (TLR), ers; 7 Apr (1) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); 7 May (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS). **Black Tern**: 24 May (1) John Sevier L. (SHu), only report. **Forster's Tern**: 26 Apr (3) John Sevier L. (SHu); 4 / 7 May (3 / 5) Rankin Bottoms (MBS); 4 May (2) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); 9 May (7) Tenn. R., Hamilton Co (KAC). **WHITE-WINGED DOVE**: 18 Apr (1, seen & heard calling) Butcher Valley, Hawkins Co (Dee Eiklor), adequately described; there are five previous reports in the state, all from West Tenn. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: 22 Apr (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 25 Apr (1) Austin Springs (RLK et al.); 6 May (1) Johnson City (RLK); 7 May (1) Craven's House (TLR). **Barn Owl**: 23 Mar / 9 May (1) Johnson City (RBB / RLK); 12 Apr (1, road kill) Bristol (Paul Freiberg); 10 May (1) Bible Refuge (DHM). **Short-eared Owl**: from Dec thru 18 Mar (2) Cumberland Co (EKL). **Common Nighthawk**: 16 Mar (2) Hamilton Co (David Stone), very early. **Whip-poor-will**: 5 Apr (1) Washington Co (DAH, Dianne Draper), ers. **Chimney Swift**: 31 Mar (1) Knox Co (Susan Hoyle), ers.

Flycatcher - Waxwing: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 16-17 May (1) Craven's House (KAC, DRJ); 18 May (1) Washington Co (RLK). **Eastern Wood-Pewee**: 14 Apr (1) Steele Cr. Park (LCM), ers. **Alder Flycatcher**: 16 May (1) Knoxville (KDE); 17 May (1) Greeneville (DHM). **Least Flycatcher**: 26 Apr (1) Craven's House (KAC, DRJ, CDB), ers. **Eastern Kingbird**: 5 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 8-9 May (1) Blount Co (Kathy Bivens / Tom Howe); 24 May (1) Limestone (Roy Knispel, RLK, LCM - photo), first record in NE Tenn. **Loggerhead Shrike**: reported at 3 sites in Washington Co. (m.ob.), with nest building observed at one site (DHM); 15 May (1) Bradley Co (DCC), only report in SE Tenn. **White-eyed Vireo**: 4 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (KAC et al.), ers. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 6 Apr (1) Marion Co (J.N. Howard), ers. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 15 Mar (1) Marion Co (TLR), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: reported at 10+ sites in Washington Co (RLK, DHM et al.) and at Kingsport (RLK) and Greene Co (DHM); 25 May (1) Polk Co (Johnny Parks), rare in SE Tenn. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 9 May (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ, RJH); 16 May (1) Knoxville (KDE); 20 May (1) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); rare in East Tenn in spring. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 6 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (DA), ers. **Fish Crow**: 22 Mar (6) Lyon's Is., Knox Co (CJW); 12 Apr (15) Hamilton Co (Jimmy Wilkerson). **Common Raven**: thru season (1-2) Kingsport (RAP, RLK); 18 Mar - 29 Apr (1-2 at scattered sites) Washington Co (RLK, RBB, GDE); 20 Mar (2) Bristol (Richard Lewis); 19 May (6) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (RAP). **Purple Martin**: 1 Mar (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers. **Bank Swallow**: 13 Apr (1) Steele Cr. Park (LCM), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 23 Mar (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Winter Wren**: 20 Apr

(1) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **Sedge Wren**: 1 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (TJW); 11 & 25 Apr / 10 May (1 / 7) three sites in Greene Co (DHM); 1 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 11 May (2) Rankin Bottoms (DHM); good showing. **Marsh Wren**: 10 / 25 Apr (1) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM); 9 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK, RBB, John Hay); 9 May (1) Hamilton Co (KAC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 29 Mar (1) Marion Co (TLR), ers. **Wood Thrush**: 14 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (DA), ers. **American Pipit**: 3 May (7) Limestone (RLK); 4 May (8) Austin Springs (RLK); lrs. **Cedar Waxwing**: 30 Mar (500+) downtown Bristol (Ken Hale), max.

Warbler - Siskin: **Golden-winged Warbler**: 22 Apr (1) Craven's House (Libby Wolfe, Susan Schott), ers, only report in SE Tenn. **Nashville Warbler**: 14 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (DA), ers. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 23 Mar (1, banded) Hamilton Co (DA). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 26 Apr / 3 May (1) Craven's House (KAC et al.), scarce migrant in Chattanooga area, but apparently increasing. **Prairie Warbler**: 18 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (DA), ers; 25 May (1) Greene Co (DHM), lrs. **Cerulean Warbler**: 16 Apr (1) Craven's House (KAC), ers, with below average number of migrants there; 23 Apr (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers there; none reported in Greeneville or Tri-cities area. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 25 Apr (1) Nolichucky R., Washington Co (JHM, DAH et al.); 26 Apr / 24 May (1 / 2) John Sevier L. (SHu); 29 Apr (2) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM); 1 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK), only report there; 11 May (5) Upper Douglas L. (DHM). **Swainson's Warbler**: 9 May (1) near Oak Ridge, Anderson Co (Frank Bills). **Connecticut Warbler**: 8 May (1) Knoxville (Frank Bills); 14 May (2, 1 banded) Hamilton Co (DA), with 1-2 still there on 19-20 May (DRJ, KAC); rare in East Tenn in spring. **Common Yellowthroat**: 1 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (TJW), ers. **Hooded Warbler**: 15 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Wilson's Warbler**: 9 May (1) Hamilton Co (DRJ, RJH). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: 26 Apr (1) Knox Co (Audrey Hoff). **Vesper Sparrow**: 18-28 Mar (1-7) reported from Washington, Greene, & Hamblen Cos. (GDE, DHM, DAH, Ben Britton). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 18 Apr (2) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Henslow's Sparrow**: 25 Apr (20) Bridgestone-Firestone WMA, White Co (EKL). **Blue Grosbeak**: 17 Apr (1) Greene Co (DAH), ers. **Indigo Bunting**: 19 Apr (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers. **PAINTED BUNTING**: 14 Mar (1 male) west Knoxville (Ginger Williams), 3rd or 4th record in that vicinity in recent years. **Dickcissel**: 9 May (2) Old Kentucky Rd, Greene Co (DHM); 13 May (1) Blount Co (Tom Howe); 15 May (5 males, 1 female carrying nesting material) Bradley Co (DCC), possibly first Co. record; 16-23 May (1-3) Gray, Washington Co (RLK, m.ob.); 20-22 May (2) 4-H Center, Greene Co (DAH); 23 May (1) Bowmantown, Washington Co (GDE); 23-27 May (2) Limestone (RLK), 14th straight year in vicinity; 30 May (1) Bible Refuge (DHM), 12th straight year at site. **Bobolink**: 6 May into summer (1-2 males) Conklin, Washington Co (DAH, RLK, m.ob.), at site occupied for several years. **Rusty Blackbird**: 1 Mar (500+) Washington Co (TSM, RBB), max. **Brewer's Blackbird**: 1 Mar (8) Washington Co (TSM, RBB); 7 Mar (6) Greene Co (DHM); rare in East Tenn. **Purple Finch**: 4 May (1 male) Knoxville (KDE), lrs. **Pine Siskin**: 15 Mar (500) Marion Co (TLR), max; representative last dates: 6 May (1) Greene Co

(DHM); 13 May (2) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); 22 May (1) Kingsport (RAP); 28 May (1) Sequatchie Co (CDB); 1 Jun (1) Cumberland Co (EKL).

Locations: Austin Springs - in Washington Co.; Bible Refuge - in Greene Co.; Brainerd Levee - in Hamilton Co; Craven's House - unit of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Hamilton Co; John Sevier L. - in Hawkins Co.; Kyker Bottoms - in Blount Co.; Limestone - in Washington Co.; Rankin Bottoms - in Cocke Co.; Standifer Gap Marsh - in Hamilton Co; Steele Cr. Park - in Sullivan Co.; Upper Douglas L. (may include Rankin Bottoms) - in Cocke & Jefferson Cos.; Wal-Mart Distribution Center - in Greene Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — Precipitation for the period was about two inches below normal. March was the driest month. Temperatures were above average for the period. There was some late frost on 18-19 May.

Two outstanding records came from South Holston Lake, but both were just barely across the border on the Virginia portion of the lake. One was the first recorded nesting of Bald Eagle on South Holston Lake. The other was a Brown-headed Nuthatch found at the same location less than a half-mile north of the Tennessee border where one was found three months earlier on the Bristol Christmas Bird Count.

Goose - Cormorant: **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 2-13 Mar (5) South Holston L., VA portion (JWC, m.ob.). **Snow Goose**: 2-13 Mar (3 white, 1 blue) S. Holston L., VA portion (JWC, m.ob.). **Redhead**: 7 Mar (27) S. Holston L. (RBB, LCM), max. **Greater Scaup**: 5 Apr (7) S. Holston L. (RBB, RMC); 7 Apr (20) Watauga L. (GOW); 21 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (RLK). **Lesser Scaup**: 5 Apr (43) S. Holston L. (RBB, RMC), max. **White-winged Scoter**: from Jan thru 23 Mar (1) Wilbur L. (RLK, m.ob.). **Long-tailed Duck**: from Feb thru 10 Mar (1) S. Holston L. (Roy Knispel, m.ob.). **Bufflehead**: 17 Mar (105) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB), max. **Red-throated Loon**: 26 Mar (1) S. Holston L. (RLK). **Common Loon**: 17 Apr (1-2, heard calling overhead) Roan Mtn summit (Chris Kelly); 31 May (1) S. Holston L. (JWC), lrs. **Eared Grebe**: 17 Mar (3) S. Holston L. (Roy Knispel, Gil Derouen, Reese Jamerson), lrs. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 17 Apr (5, flying over) Roan Mtn summit (Chris Kelly).

Bittern - Tern: **American Bittern**: 13 Apr (1) Watauga R. (Harry Farthing). **Great Egret**: 19 Mar (2) Watauga R. (FJA), ers; 5 Apr (10) S. Holston L. (RBB, RMC), max. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 19 Mar thru season (at least 4 nests at 2 sites) Watauga R. in Elizabethton (m.ob.). **Osprey**: 9 Mar (1) Watauga R. (GOW), ers. **Bald Eagle**: late Feb thru season (active nest) S. Holston L., VA portion (Bob Riggs, JWC, m.ob.), first nest on upper lakes; 31 May (1 ad) Watauga L. (fide JHM). **Northern Harrier**: 12 May (1 female) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB), lrs. **Red-shouldered Hawk**:

17 May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (NS). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 4 Apr (1) Weaver's Bend, Cocke Co (DAH, LCM et al.), ers. **Merlin**: 12 Mar (1) Holston Valley (RPL); 16 Apr (1) Watauga R. (FJA); 17 Apr / 2 June (1) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (Chris Kelly / Darrel Wilder), latter date is new late departure date in NE Tenn. **Virginia Rail**: 16 / 25 Apr (5 / 2) Shady Valley (RLK / GDE). **Sora**: 25 Apr (3) Shady Valley (GDE et al.). **Sandhill Crane**: thru 4 Mar (3) S. Holston L. (JWC); 21 Apr (1) Holston Valley (RLK), new late departure date in NE Tenn. **Bonaparte's Gull**: 5 Apr (400+) S. Holston L. (RBB, RMC), new high count in NE Tenn. **Herring Gull**: 8 Apr (6) S. Holston L. (RLK), lrs. **Caspian Tern**: 10 Apr (2) S. Holston L. (RBB).

Cuckoo - Thrush: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 1 / 4 May (1 / 2) S. Holston L. (RLK); 15 May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (NS). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 18 Apr / 25 Apr / 12 May (1) Roan Mtn (TSM et al. / FJA / RLK); 25 Apr (1) Unaka Mtn (JHM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 12 May (1 male, drumming & calling) Roan Mtn at 4750 ft elevation (RLK); 23 May (1 calling) at 4000 ft elevation on Rich Knob, Sullivan Co (RPL). **Alder Flycatcher**: 12 May (1 each) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn & Hampton Cr. Cove (RLK), ers. **Willow Flycatcher**: 22 May (16 singing) Shady Valley (RLK), max. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 17 Mar (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB), ers. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 5 Apr (1) S. Holston L. (RBB, RMC), ers. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 19 Mar (3) Watauga R. (FJA), ers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 15 / 30 May (1) Greene Mtn, Greene Co (DHM); 23 May (2) Rich Knob, Sullivan Co (RPL). **BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH**: 28 Mar (1) Washington Co. Park, on S. Holston L., VA portion (LCM, RBB), 2nd record there. **House Wren**: 17 Mar (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB), ers. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 28 Mar (1) Wilbur L. (GOW), ers. **Wood Thrush**: 7 Apr (1) Shady Valley (Todd Eastin), ers.

Warbler - Siskin: **Blue-winged Warbler**: 4 May (1) Holston Valley (RLK), only report. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 19 Apr (1) Roan Mtn (RBB, RMC), ers; mid-May (17) Hampton Cr. Cove (NS), max. **"Brewster's Warbler"**: 12 May thru season (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (RLK, m.ob.), nest there with 3 warbler eggs & 1 cowbird egg on 15-20 May (NS). **Yellow Warbler**: 17 Apr (1) Unicoi Co (JHM), ers. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 29 Mar (1) GSMNP (David Trently et al.), ers. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 22-23 May (8 singing) Holston Mtn., Sullivan & Johnson Cos. (RPL), rather scarce breeder in area. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 28 Mar (1) Wilbur L. (GOW), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 25 Apr thru season (1) Rich Mtn, Unicoi Co (JHM et al.); 9 May (1) near Elizabethton (RBB); only reports. **Cerulean Warbler**: 30 May (1) near Sam's Gap, Unicoi Co (RLK), only report. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 28 Mar (1 each) Pond Mtn, Carter Co / Wilbur L. (RBB / GOW), ers. **Worm-eating Warbler**: 10 Apr (1) Paint Mtn, Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 19 Apr (1) Buffalo Mtn, Washington Co (James Brooks), ers; 25 Apr (7) Elizabethton Spring Count, from Carter, Johnson, Unicoi & Washington Cos.; 1 May (1) Schoolhouse Gap trail, GSMNP (TJW); 15 May (1) Bald Mtn, Greene Co (DHM). **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 21 Mar (2) Paint Cr., Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Northern Waterthrush**: 27 May (1) Laurel Bloomery, Johnson Co (JHM), new late departure date in NE Tenn. **Common Yellowthroat**: 4

Apr (1) Weaver's Bend, Cocke Co (DAH, LCM et al.), ers. **Scarlet Tanager**: 14 Apr (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB), ers. **Bobolink**: 22 May (1 male, 2 females) Shady Valley, Johnson Co (RLK). **Pine Siskin**: 2 May (1 gathering nest material) Del Rio, Cocke Co (MBS); 12 May (pair feeding 3 nestlings) Roan Mtn - at 4450 ft elevation (RLK) - second Tenn. nest, both at this site.

Locations: GSMNP - Great Smoky Mtns. National Park; Hampton Cr. Cove - in Carter Co; Holston Valley - in Sullivan Co; Roan Mtn - in Carter Co; South Holston L. - in Sullivan Co; Watauga R. - in Carter Co; Wilbur L. - in Carter Co.

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